

RULES OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF BUCKS COUNTY

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PREAMBLE

Whereas there exists a need for an organization to foster and promote the civic, social, and political goals of voters of Bucks County who desire membership in the Democratic Party and wish to participate in the promotion and election of Democratic candidates for office and the positions they espouse, the Democratic Party of Bucks County is hereby constituted to promote these civic, social, and political ideals and goals. Consistent with the 2020 National Democratic Party Platform, these rules are promulgated to guide our organization and set forth our values.

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

The Democratic Party of Bucks County is committed to serving the best interest of all the people of the County and to providing the broadest possible base of participation in the affairs of the Party. Consistent with the philosophy, the Democratic Party of Bucks County pledges, as part of the rules governing the Democratic Party of Bucks County, the following principles:

All official meetings that require 10 days' notice, at all levels of the Democratic Party, are open to the public, regardless of race, color, creed, gender, national origin, age, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, or economic status.

No test of membership in, nor any oaths of loyalty to the Democratic Party of Bucks County shall be required or used that have the effect of requiring prospective or currently registered Democrats to acquiesce in, condone, or support discrimination on the grounds of race, color, creed, gender, national origin, age, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, economic status, disability or religion.

The Democratic Party, on all levels, shall support the broadest possible voter registration without discrimination on any grounds.

The Democratic Party of Bucks County and all subsidiary bodies shall publicize fully, and in such a manner as to assure timely notice to all interested parties, a full description of the legal and practical procedures for selection of Democratic Party Officers and representatives at all levels. Publication of these procedures shall be done in such a fashion that all prospective and current members of the Democratic Party may be fully and adequately informed of pertinent procedures at all levels of the Democratic Party Organization.

DEFINITIONS

Elected County Committeeperson: An elected County Committeeperson is one certified as elected by the Bucks County Board of Elections or otherwise duly elected under Title 25 of Purdon's Statutes, the Pennsylvania Election Code. A Committeeperson must be a registered Democrat residing in the precinct to which they are elected at the time of their election and must remain a registered Democrat residing in the precinct to which they are elected during the entirety of their term. The plural of Committeeperson is Committeepople.

Appointed County Committeeperson: A Committeeperson is one who has been appointed by the Chairperson of the BCDC at any time following the reorganization meeting of the BCDC and prior to the next Primary where Committeepople are elected. An Appointed Committeeperson must be a registered Democrat residing in the precinct to which they are appointed and must remain a registered Democrat residing in the precinct to which they are appointed during the entirety of their term. Appointed Committeepople are entitled to ~~nearly~~ all rights and privileges afforded Elected Committeepople except that pursuant to Rule II Section G, they shall not have a vote at party reorganization.

Rules of Procedure: All meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the parliamentary procedure published in Robert's Rules of Order (Revised) except where such procedure is inconsistent with these Rules or the Rules of the Democratic State Committee and the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

RULE I ORGANIZATION

SECTION A. Organizational Bodies -The representative and authoritative bodies of the Bucks County Democratic Party shall consist of the:

1. Bucks County Democratic Committee (BCDC)
2. Bucks County Democratic Committee Executive Board (BCDCEB)
3. Assembly District (AD) Organizations
4. Municipal Organizations (MO)

SECTION B. Other Nominations - The following appointments will be made by the BCDC Chairperson with the approval of the Executive Board:

1. Solicitor - a non-voting official who shall serve as Counsel.
2. Executive Director -An official representative of the party granted full authority to act but does not necessarily have a vote unless they are a Committeeperson.
3. Parliamentarian -A non-voting official that assures meetings are conducted following the current version of Robert's Rule of Order.

4. Deputy Chair(s) - Shall be responsible for leading teams dedicated to general subject areas as defined by the Chairperson and who shall be ex-officio members of the Executive Board.
5. Director(s) - shall be responsible for specific duties as assigned by the Chairperson and who shall be ex-officio members of the Executive Board.

RULE II BUCKS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE (BCDC)

SECTION A. BCDC Definition - The County Committee shall be the authorized body of the Democratic Party of Bucks County and shall be the authorized body for all matters of party management not specifically covered by law or by these rules. It shall have full power and authority to act for the Democratic Party of Bucks County and may delegate such power and authority to committees or to representative Democratic voters of the County.

SECTION B. Committeeperson Elections - At the Spring Primary Election in the year that the Governor is elected, the Democratic voters of each election precinct of Bucks County shall elect two County Committeepople who shall be duly registered and enrolled Democratic voters of such election precinct. The Committeepople shall have charge of the Democratic organization in their respective precincts and shall hold office for a term of four years or until their successors are elected or appointed in accordance with these rules.

SECTION C. County Committee Composition - The County Committee shall consist of:

1. All elected Democratic Federal, State, and County officials elected from Bucks County.
2. The members of the State Committee from Bucks County.
3. The County Committeepople from the various election precincts of Bucks County.
4. The Chairs of each Assembly District and each Municipal Organization.
5. The president and two vice presidents of the Bucks County Young Democrats Organization as set forth by Article IV of the Bucks County Young Democrats Bylaws.
6. Solicitor
7. Executive Director
8. Parliamentarian
9. Deputy Chair(s)
10. Director(s)

SECTION D. Election of Officers - The County Committee shall meet within thirty days after the primary election in the year the Governor is elected at such time and such place as the County Chairperson shall designate. Only County Committeepople elected at that primary election and members of the State Committee from Bucks County, or their proxies, shall be allowed to cast votes for the conduct of business and the election of officers at this meeting of the Committee. All proxies shall be registered Democrats who live within the same Municipal Organization as the elected Committeeperson. The proxy designation shall be in writing and shall include the name, address and phone number of the designated person. Each member of the County Committee, including ex officio members shall be entitled to one vote in elections for Officers, except for the following, who will not be entitled to vote: BCDC Staff, the Parliamentarian and the Solicitor. At this meeting, no member may have more than one vote or proxy, and no person may cast more than one vote or proxy. Except as otherwise provided herein, the membership of the Bucks County Democratic Committee, the Executive Board and all committees shall be as equally divided as practicable between men and women (determined by gender self-identification) meaning that the variance between men and women in the group cannot exceed one. In the case of gender non-binary delegates or committee members, they shall not be counted as either a male or female and the remainder of the delegation shall be equally divided. For example, if all officers identify as male or female, it should be split 3-2 either way or if one officer identifies as non-binary, the remaining four officers should be split 2-2 between male and female officers.

The Officers of the County Committee, including Chair, are retained after the primary for the primary purpose of calling the organization meeting of the County Committee and assuring that a new officer is elected at the County Committee organization meeting. This includes items such as verifying the new County Committee membership, providing necessary notices to those new members of the organization meeting, securing a location and other similarly related duties and responsibilities.

The terms of County Committee members shall run from the primary election at which they are elected until the next gubernatorial primary election. The terms of members of the Executive Board and any standing or special committees will run no later than the date of the gubernatorial primary election.

All elected officers of the County Committee shall serve from the time of their election until their successors are duly elected, or, they are removed pursuant to Rule III, Section H. Any retiring officer of the County Committee or Executive Committee who may have in custody or control any monies, property, passwords, access to databases, or documents of any nature belonging under the jurisdiction of the County Committee or Executive Committee, shall preserve and turn same over intact to their successor promptly upon retiring from office or, if there be no successor at that time, to the County Chair or to such person as the Chair shall designate

The committee shall organize by electing by majority vote the following officers:

1. A Chairperson, who shall be County Chairperson. The County Chairperson shall, with the advice of the County Executive Board, be responsible for the conduct of all county campaigns;
2. A Vice Chairperson, who shall serve as Acting County Chairperson in the absence of the Chairperson and who shall be of a different gender identity than the Chairperson. The Vice Chairperson shall ensure that all Standing Committee appointments are made by the Chairperson at, or shortly following, the reorganization meeting;
3. A Secretary, who shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the County Committee and of the Executive Board and who shall handle all correspondence of the County Committee as directed by the County Chairperson or the Executive Board;
4. A Treasurer, who shall have general supervision of the financial affairs of the County Committee, shall jointly with the County Chairperson (or the Chairperson's representative) be authorized to sign checks drawn on the bank accounts of the County Committee, and shall keep the books and accounts thereof. The books and records of the Treasurer shall be audited at least once a year, and at such times as may be directed by the Executive Board, and/or by an Auditing Committee as defined in Rule VII, Section A., 2. The Treasurer shall, before assuming the duties of their office, file with the Secretary, a Bond, with one or more sureties or one corporate surety, for the faithful accounting for all proper disposition of all funds of the County Committee coming into their custody. The form and amount of such bond, and the sufficiency of the surety or sureties thereon, shall be as fixed or approved by the Executive Board. The premium for any such bond shall be paid with funds of the County Committee;
5. A Comptroller, who shall, as may be from time to time directed by the County Committee or the Executive Board, to examine and audit the accounts of the County Committee and entity subsidiary or auxiliary to it, to keep records of such funds, and to report the financial situation of said accounts.

The officers of the County committee need not be members of the Committee at the time of their election, but shall be voting members thereof after their election.

The officers shall hold office for the term of four years and until their successors are elected. The County Executive Board shall fill vacancies in these offices, except that of the County Chairperson, for the unexpired term. In the event of a vacancy in the office of County Chairperson, it shall be the duty of the Acting County Chairperson, or the Secretary or Treasurer in that order if the Acting County Chairperson is unavailable or refuses to do so, to call a meeting of the County Committee within thirty (30) days after the vacancy occurs for the purpose of filling it.

SECTION E. Duties –

a.) It shall be the duty of the Municipal Chairs, and Assembly District Chairs to:

- Participate in meetings of the County Committee and in meetings of the members thereof from their respective districts and municipalities;
- Assist in Increasing the enrollment of Democratic electors in their voting districts;
- See that nomination petitions shall be properly circulated in their respective jurisdictions and filed for each public office for which nominations are to be made at each Primary Election;
- Organize political activity in respective jurisdictions thoroughly and effectively to the end of achieving a maximum Democratic vote at the polls and Democratic victories in elections;
- Champion and work for Democratic principles and integrity within the party and the administration of government and
- Do all things necessary and proper to effectuate these rules.

b.) It shall be the duty of Elected and Appointed Committeepeople to:

- Participate in reorganizations to elect a County Chair or a Municipal Leader, except as prohibited in Rule II, Section G;
- Participate in meetings of the local and County Committees as called pursuant to these Bylaws
- Work to increase the registration of Democratic electors in their election precincts;
- Properly circulate nominating petitions in advance of Primary Elections;
- Assist as needed in the recruitment of candidates for all elected offices including local election board officials (e.g., Judge of Election, Inspectors and Clerks);
- Staff and organize political activity in their respective precincts, including but not limited to ensuring that there are workers outside the polling place(s) on Election Day;
- Assist in achieving the maximum Democratic vote;
- Champion and work for Democratic principles and integrity within the Party; and
- Do all things necessary and proper to effectuate these Bylaws.

SECTION F. Resignation of Committeepeople - A Committeepeople may resign by written notice to the County Chairperson and must resign if they move out of the precinct to which they were elected or appointed. The resignation shall be effective immediately.

SECTION G. Committeepeople Vacancies - In the case of a vacancy in the office of the County Committeepeople from any election precinct of the county, caused by death, resignation, failure to reside in the precinct, failure to elect at the Spring Primary Election or otherwise, the County Chairperson shall appoint a qualified Democratic elector, after a majority vote of the Municipal Organization's duly elected/appointed Committeepeople, of said precinct to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term, except that no vacancies shall be filled from the period of time intervening between the Primary election at which County Committee members are elected, and the reorganization meeting of the County Committee. In the case of filling a vacancy for committeepeople, once again the Committee shall be as equally as practicable between men and women (determined by gender self-identification) with respect to gender balance requirements.

SECTION H. Special Meetings - Special meetings may be called by the County Chairperson at any time and shall be called by the County Chairperson or Vice Chairperson at the request of one hundred (100) members. Special meetings require a minimum of five (5) days' notice.

SECTION I. Proxies - Any member of the County Committee who is unable to attend in person a meeting of the Committee may appoint by proxy a Democratic elector resident in the same Municipal Organization and not already a member of the Committee, who shall have the power to attend such meeting and vote thereat as the representative of the absent member. Any such proxy shall be an instrument in writing, signed by the member giving the same. The County Chairperson may prescribe the form of proxies for the purposes of attendance and voting at meetings of the County Committee. If so prescribed, forms for proxies at County Committee meetings shall be sent to members of County Committee at least ten (10) days before the meeting at which the proxies are to be used.

SECTION J. Meeting Quorum - One third of the members of the County Committee in office at the time of the meeting shall constitute a quorum for that meeting. Any business conducted at any meeting shall require the vote of a majority of the members present.

SECTION K. Credentials Committee - At each meeting of the County Committee, the Credentials Committee shall review and verify the credentials of all Committeepeople, proxy carriers, and other voting members of the County Committee and present a verbal report to the Chair and the entire County Committee announcing whether a quorum is present. Appeals to verify any decision by the Credentials Committee may be made by an affirmative motion of the majority of the present members at which time three representatives shall be elected by majority vote to review and report on the existence of a quorum.

SECTION L. Meeting Conductance - Meetings of the County Committee shall be conducted in accordance with the rules of procedure laid down in the current version of Robert's Rules of Order except where otherwise provided herein.

SECTION M. Voting at Meetings - The County Chairperson shall prescribe the manner of voting at meetings of the County Committee except that no vote shall be taken by secret ballot and no member shall have more than one vote. Voting tabulation must be done using paper or virtual ballot, so that records are preserved. If voting is done virtually, it must be on secure platforms, under the direction of the Chairperson.

RULE III
COUNTY EXECUTIVE BOARD

SECTION A. County Executive Board Composition - The County Executive Board shall consist of:

1. The County Chairperson, who shall be Chairperson thereof, the Vice Chairperson, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Comptroller, and the immediate past County Chairperson;
2. The members of the State Committee from Bucks County and the members of the State Executive Committee residing in Bucks County, if any;
3. The Chairpersons of the Assembly District Organizations;
4. The Chairpersons of the Municipal Organizations;
5. The Chairpersons of the Standing Committees;
6. All elected federal, state, or county officials elected from Bucks County;
7. Solicitor;
8. Executive Director;
9. Parliamentarian;
10. The following shall serve as ex-officio members of the Executive Board and may vote on matters which come before the Executive Board:
 - a) The President of any Democratic Women's Club in the County,
 - b) The President of the Young Democrats Organization,
 - c) Two representatives from organized labor, subject to the approval of the Board,
 - d) Deputy Chairpeople appointed by the Chairperson in accordance with these rules,
 - e) Director(s) appointed by the Chairperson in accordance with these rules.

The members designated in Section A. 3. and A. 4., above shall be elected at meetings of the Committeepeople of the areas involved held within thirty (30) days after the primary election in the year that the Governor is elected by a majority vote. At these meetings only Committeepeople elected at the preceding Primary Election or their proxies shall be allowed to vote, and a majority of the elected Committeepeople then in office in the area shall constitute a quorum. Persons elected to the County Executive Board need not be County Committeepeople.

SECTION B. Vacancies - Vacancies happening at any time in the elected membership of the County Executive Board shall be filled by a vote of the members of the County Committee from the district, township, or borough in which the vacancy occurs at a special meeting to be called by the County Chairperson for that purpose in accordance with the voting procedures set forth in Rule II, Section J. Said meeting shall be held upon ten (10) days written or emailed notice.

SECTION C. Meetings - The County Executive Board shall act in an advisory capacity to the County Chairperson and all other committees, and shall perform such other functions as may be conferred by these rules or otherwise delegated to it by the County Committee. It shall meet at least four (4) times per year or at the call of any twelve (12) members of the Committee. One third (1/3) of its members shall constitute a quorum. No member shall have more than one vote.

SECTION D. Deputy Chairperson(s) and Director(s)

1. Deputy Chairperson(s) - The County Chairperson may, at their own discretion, nominate no more than nine Deputy Chairpersons who shall be responsible for leading teams dedicated to general subject areas as defined by the Chairperson and who shall be ex-officio members of the Executive Board. The Executive Board must consider the nomination(s) made by the County Chairperson and hold a vote on whether to approve said nomination(s) before a Deputy Chairperson can assume their role and their duties therein.
2. Directors(s) - The County Chairperson may, at their own discretion, nominate no more than five Directors who shall be responsible for specific duties as assigned by the Chairperson and who shall be ex-officio members of the Executive Board. The Executive Board must consider the nomination(s) made by the County Chairperson and hold a vote on whether to approve said nomination(s) before a Director can assume their role and their duties therein.

SECTION E. Proxies - A member of the Executive Board who is unable to attend in person a meeting of that body may appoint a registered Democratic resident in Bucks County who shall have the power to attend the meeting and vote at it as their representative. If the member was elected or appointed from a particular Municipal Organization or Assembly District Organization, their representative shall also be a resident of the Municipal Organization or Assembly District from which they were elected. Representatives of BCDC Officers, Deputy Chairs, Directors or State Committee Members shall be residents of Bucks County. The County Chairperson may prescribe the form of proxies for the purposes of attendance and voting at meetings of the Executive Board.

A proxy shall be an instrument in writing signifying the intention of the member of the Executive Board who is unable to attend a specified meeting that the holder shall have the authority to attend the specified meeting and vote as their representative.

SECTION F. Meeting Notification - Written notice of all meetings of the Executive Board shall be given at least ten (10) days for regular meetings and at least five (5) days for special emergency meetings. Notice may be made by email or mail according to the recipient's preference.

SECTION G. Member Absenteeism - If an elected member is absent from and is not represented by a proxy at four (4) consecutive meetings without explanation or, alternately, is absent from any sixteen (16) of the Board meetings during a four-year term even though they had been represented by a proxy at some of the meetings, the County Chairperson may declare the seat vacant, and an election shall forthwith be held to choose a successor. An exception will be granted to Federal, State, or County elected officials.

SECTION H. Removal of Members - After notice and opportunity for public hearing and upon grounds found by the BCDCEB to constitute good and sufficient cause, the BCDCEB may remove a Committeeperson or member of the BCDC or BCDCEB by two-thirds vote of the members present the BCDCEB per Rule III, Section C.

Grounds for removal from the BCDC or BCDCEB include, but are not limited to the following:

- Meeting attendance in Rule III, Section G
- Violation of Endorsement rules in Rule V Section E-H
- Members who support platforms that are inconsistent with the Democratic values
- Members who exhibit conduct that negatively reflects upon the Democratic Party

A Municipal Organization and Assembly District Organization may initiate removal to the County Committee to remove from membership any person who is inactive and non-communicative with said members of the organization. If said committee can provide evidence of attempted contacts via email, phone messages, or by mail with no response from the individual, such action shall not be taken without at least ten (10) days written notice to the member in question and such member will be given the opportunity for them to refute such charges in a hearing before the Arbitration committee. If the member in question is removed, an appointment can be made by the organization, then approved by the Chair in which the vacancy occurs pursuant to these Bylaws. The appointed member will have the same voting and access rights as the removed member consistent with these Bylaws.

RULE IV VACANCIES ON THE DEMOCRATIC TICKET

SECTION A. County Vacancies - The County Executive Board shall have the power to fill all vacancies occurring or existing on the county ticket by reason of death, withdrawal, failure to nominate at the Primary Election, calling of a special election, or other cause, and which cannot be filled at a Primary Election under the law, and shall have the authority to make and certify a nomination. If a vacancy exists following the executive board meeting that precedes the deadline for submitting a replacement candidate to the Board of Elections, then the County Chairperson shall have the authority to fill the vacancy.

SECTION B. Local Vacancies - Vacancies happening or existing on a city, borough, township,

ward, or election district ticket, by reason of death, withdrawal, failure to nominate at the Primary Election, or other cause, and which cannot be filled at a Primary Election under law, in cities, boroughs or townships, shall be filled by the Executive Board which shall have Authority to make and certify a nomination upon the recommendation of the members of the committee from the city, borough, township, ward, or election district concerned. If a vacancy exists following the executive board meeting that precedes the deadline for submitting a replacement candidate to the Board of Elections, then the County Chairperson shall have the authority to fill the vacancy.

RULE V SELECTION OF CANDIDATES

SECTION A. Endorsement Meeting - In addition to one or more screening meetings, an Endorsement Meeting shall take place within the petition period and be called by the County Chairperson, with notification given at least ten days in advance, at which time the County Committee may endorse candidates. Screening meetings must be held before or during the petition period. One third of the members of the County Committee then holding office and entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum. Each member of the County Committee, including ex officio members shall be entitled to one vote in any endorsement contest at the Endorsement Meeting. The following shall not have voting power at the Endorsement Meeting: BCDC Staff, the Parliamentarian, and the Solicitor. No endorsement shall be made unless the prospective candidate receives the votes of at least 60% of those present and who are entitled to vote for that office. The County Chairperson may prescribe the manner of voting at meetings of the County Committee except that no vote shall be taken by secret ballot

All organizations who wish to endorse candidates within their said districts must provide 10-day notification of an Endorsement Meeting to their eligible voting membership.

SECTION B. Screening Meetings - Prior to the Annual Endorsement Meeting, the County Committee shall hold a screening meeting at the call of the County Chairperson for the purpose of receiving suggestions concerning candidates to be recommended by the County Committee to the Democratic offices for which nominations are to be made thereat in the county at large, or in any Congressional or State Senatorial District within the county, or State Representative District within the county or for State Committeeperson, or delegate to a Democratic National Convention.

Any Assembly District Organization, Municipal Organization, or any Committeeperson may make such suggestions to the County Committee. No final endorsement of any candidates shall be made at this initial meeting, but the members of the Committee may interview prospective candidates and hear presentations on their behalf as the members see fit. More than one screening meeting may be held prior to the endorsement meeting. There shall be no quorum requirement for these screening meetings.

In order to be considered for endorsement, a candidate must appear before those from the County Committee present at a screening meeting.

SECTION C. Other Screening and Endorsement Meetings - Other than for state-wide offices, when a district from which an official is to be elected lies partly in Bucks and partly in another county, screening meetings and endorsement meetings shall be held in the manner set forth in Section A and B above. The Committeepople from both counties who reside in that district must be invited to the meeting. The quorum and minimum vote requirements shall be the same as in Section A and B above.

SECTION D. Endorsement Voting - Persons living outside of the area from which the official is to be elected shall not vote upon endorsements for representatives to the General Assembly, Magisterial District Justices, School Directors, and local offices. Members of the County Committee may make endorsements for representatives to the General Assembly from the respective Assembly Districts.

The County Executive Board shall fill vacancies for the offices enumerated above after consultation with the members of the County Committee from the district, municipality or other area concerned.

SECTION E. Candidate Endorsements - Candidate endorsement shall occur within the organizations of the Bucks County Democratic Party; however, no organization shall endorse a non-Democrat without a majority vote of the BCDC Executive Board. Subordinate organizations cannot override the endorsements of the BCDC by endorsing candidates who did not earn the endorsement of the BCDC. Similarly, if the BCDC has voted for an Open Primary for any Federal, State or County positions, subordinate organizations may not make endorsements for those positions. Only those Committeepople residing within the district to which a candidate is being endorsed, may vote in the endorsement. Only duly endorsed candidates shall receive the support and resources of the BCDC in a Primary Election. The Official Democratic Ballot used at the Primary Election shall only list duly endorsed candidates except as follows: in those instances, in which no candidate has been endorsed all candidates for the office in question may be listed on the Official Democratic Ballot at the discretion of the County Chairperson. Under no circumstances may the Official Democratic Ballot be altered in any way that would benefit one unendorsed candidate to the detriment of an endorsed candidate or another unendorsed candidate. Similarly, no BCDC Member may represent to the public in a Primary that an unendorsed candidate enjoys the support of the Democratic Party. Violation of the rules set forth in this paragraph shall be subject to the sanctions described in Rule V Section H of these Bylaws and any claim of such a violation decided pursuant to the procedure established therein.

An endorsement may be revoked by an organization if a candidate exhibits conduct that reflects negatively on the Democratic Party. The endorsement may be revoked by two thirds vote of the members present.

SECTION F. Candidate Support - Every Committeeperson and every member and officer of the County Executive Board must support those candidates who have been duly nominated in a Democratic Primary Election and are prohibited from actively working in a General Election against any nominated Democratic candidate and are further prohibited from supporting or

working in favor of any candidate opposing a nominated Democratic Candidate, except as follows:

1. When a candidate is nominated on the Democratic ballot and is not a member of the Democratic Party, an endorsement may be given by the appropriate Democratic organization represented by the office but the endorsement is discretionary, not mandatory.
2. In the case of any office where cross filing is permitted, when a candidate is nominated on the Democratic ballot who is not a member of the Democratic Party and a Democrat is nominated on the Republican ballot, an endorsement may be given to the Democrat nominated on the Republican ballot by the appropriate organization represented by the office but the endorsement is discretionary, not mandatory.
3. When a write-in candidate is nominated on the Democratic ballot who has not been previously endorsed, an endorsement may be given by the appropriate Democratic organization represented by the office but the endorsement is discretionary, not mandatory.
4. In cases of personal conflict over a duly nominated Democratic candidate, the member or officer may file a formal written letter of abstention that is to be presented to the Executive Board within three (3) weeks after the Primary where the candidate was nominated. The County Chairperson then has the power to appoint an acting committeeperson or officer who will conduct the necessary duties in the given area of responsibility for the duration of the campaign. This action shall not constitute a violation of the Bylaws on the part of the individual abstaining unless they actively work for the opposition.
5. No Municipal and Assembly District organization shall endorse a non-Democrat without a majority vote of the BCDC Executive Board
6. Except as set forth in paragraph 4 above, every Committeeperson and every member and officer of the County Executive Board shall support those candidates who have been duly nominated.

SECTION G. Violation of Candidate Support Rules - Any committeeperson or officer who violates Rule V, Sections E or F shall be prohibited from serving as a member or officer of the BCDC, BCDCCEB, ADO or MO for a period of two (2) years from the date of violation unless some other penalty is assessed in accordance with these rules.

Any person accused of such a violation, may, at their request, have a hearing before the County Arbitration Board (Rule VII, Section A. 4.). If a majority of the members of the Arbitration Board find that a person accused did, in fact, violate Rule V, Sections E or F, that person's position shall be declared vacant and the County Chairperson shall then proceed to fill the vacancy in accordance with these rules.

SECTION H. False Endorsements/Goldenrod Tampering - Any Committeeperson or candidate who circulates or causes to have circulated any campaign literature or sample ballot designed to imply an endorsement by the Bucks County Democratic Committee or any of its Democratic subsidiary organizations, when such an endorsement has not been given or has been given to another candidate, shall be removed from any party office. The Committeeperson shall be removed for two years and a candidate shall be removed for a period equivalent to the term of office sought and further may not receive an endorsement or support for any office for the same period of time.

Additionally, should such a candidate win a primary victory, the County Committee and its subordinates shall be under no obligation to support such a candidate in the general election.

Specifically, this section precludes unendorsed candidates from using goldenrod colored sample ballots and from using the words "Official Democratic Sample Ballot" or "Officially Endorsed" or "Democratic Sample Ballot" or any other construction and appearance that would clearly mislead the public into believing a candidate was endorsed when they were not endorsed by the County Committee or an authorized local Democratic Committee. Candidates who are not endorsed by the Democratic Party, and who chose to distribute sample ballots, must distribute sample ballots, which are distinct and separate in size, color, and design layout from the official Democratic sample ballot. This section also precludes the marking or defacing of a goldenrod in any way, to highlight one candidate or to cross one off.

Local Democratic committees may circulate local goldenrod sample ballots with the prior written permission of the County Chairperson.

Any purported violation of this section shall be referred to the County Arbitration Board, which shall conduct a hearing and report to the County Executive Board, which shall, by majority vote of the members present, apply the above stated sanctions, or dismiss the complaint. Under this Section H, the Arbitration Board shall file the required report within four (4) months of the filing of the complaint. The Arbitration Board may make a written request of the County Executive Board for an extension based on extenuating circumstances.

RULE VI
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT AND MUNICIPAL ORGANIZATIONS

SECTION A. - County Committee Groupings - The County Committee shall be grouped into the following:

1. Assembly District Organizations (ADOs)-To provide for effective communication between Committeepeople in neighboring municipalities, to permit closer liaison between Committeepeople on the one hand and the County Executive Board on the other, and to better promote election of Democrats to State Assembly seats, the members of the County Committee shall be grouped into Assembly District Organizations. The boundaries of these organizations shall be coterminous with the district's setup by the House of Representatives of the Pennsylvania General Assembly. The boundaries of the organizations shall automatically be changed whenever the Commonwealth changes the boundaries.
2. Municipal Organizations (MOs) -The members of the County Committee shall be grouped into Municipal Organizations for the purpose of electing municipal officers and local school board directors. These organizations shall work with the County Committee from candidate recruitment to GOTV (Get Out The Vote) efforts. The boundaries of these organizations shall be defined by the township or borough boundaries and in less populated areas, may include more than one township and/or borough. The organization must contain all election districts within the township and/or borough boundaries described in their Bylaws.

SECTION B. Certification/Decertification - Certification or decertification of Assembly District and Municipal Organizations shall be by a 60% vote of the BCDC Executive Board where a quorum is present. In order to obtain certification, the above-mentioned organizations must adhere to the following:

1. The term of the Assembly District officers shall be four (4) years.
2. The term of the Municipal officers shall be no longer than four (4) years.
3. Between the Primary Election at which the Committeepeople are elected and the reorganization meeting of the Assembly District or Municipal Organization, no existing Committeepeople vacancies shall be filled; but all vacancies shall be filled as soon as possible after the reorganization meeting in accordance with the provisions of the County Rules.
4. Submit Bylaws that have been approved by the County Bylaws Committee.
5. Submit a list of members with contact information, as well as the officers elected at the reorganization meeting to the BCDC.

Failure to comply with the above shall be grounds for decertification.

SECTION C. Election of Officers - The Committeepeople and Members in Good Standing, as defined in the Municipal Organization's and Assembly District's Bylaws, from each of the Assembly District and Municipal Organizations shall elect the officers of the representative organizations. For this purpose, they shall meet at the time specified in the Bylaws of their respective organization, but no later than thirty (30) days after the primary election of the year that the Governor is elected. Failure to reorganize within thirty (30) days shall result in automatic decertification. The County Democratic Committee shall re-establish the organization by calling for and supervising a meeting specifically for the election of officers. Any duly registered and enrolled Democratic elector resident in the district shall be eligible for election as an officer of an Assembly District or Municipal Organization; however, one person may not serve in the capacity of Assembly District Chair and Municipal Organization Chair.

Only Committeepeople elected at the preceding primary election or their proxies, and, Members in Good Standing, shall be allowed to vote at this meeting. One third of the Committeepeople in office at the time of the meeting shall constitute a quorum for that meeting and a majority vote is required to win. Each member of the County Committee, including ex officio members shall be entitled to one vote, excluding the following individuals: Staff, Parliamentarian, Solicitor. Committeepeople appointed after reorganization shall be fully vested voting members should a vacancy occur in the organization's leadership after the initial reorganization.

In order for a municipal organization chair to vote in either the ADO reorganization or BCDC reorganization, that municipal organization must reorganize first. In order for an ADO chair to vote in the BCDC reorganization, that ADO must reorganize first.

However, if the County Election Board fails to certify the election of members of the County Committee in time to hold the meeting within such time limits, the organization meeting shall be held within twenty (20) days of such certification.

If the election of Municipal Chair or Assembly District Chair is not accomplished by the date of the county reorganization meeting, the County Chair shall call a meeting of the appropriate area and shall designate a County Committee officer to chair the meeting and conduct an election. Upon election of a Municipal or Assembly District Chair, it is their responsibility to notify the County Executive Committee of the names of the officers

SECTION D. Tie Votes - In organizations where the Chair and/or other officers of the organization are elected by the Committeepeople and Members in Good Standing of the respective area, and a tie vote results for any office after all have cast their votes, the tie shall be broken by the drawing of lots and the winner shall be declared elected to the office concerned. The drawing of lots shall be under the direction of the County Chair, or his or her representative, at a time and place to be set by him or her.

SECTION E. Election Certification - Within thirty days after the reorganization election of each AD or MO, held in accordance with the Rules of such organization, the Secretary of such organization shall certify to the Chairperson of the County Committee, or the Executive Director, the names of the persons elected. Yearly, each organization shall update their membership list with the Executive Director of the County Committee. Failure to comply within 90 days may result in decertification.

SECTION F. Officer Election Disputes - Whenever there shall be any dispute as to who is legally elected Chair, or other officer, of any organization, the contestant shall, not later than ten (10) days after the expiration of the time for filing the Certification of Election with the Chair of the County Committee, file a notice of contest with the Chair, accompanied by proof of service of a copy thereof on the person whose election has been certified. The notice shall be in writing and shall set forth fully and at-large the ground upon which the contest is made and shall be supported by an affidavit. It shall be the duty of the Chair to bring the contest before the County Executive Board at its next meeting, provided notice of said meeting has not yet been sent, for the purpose of determining the same. The County Executive Board shall accord the parties hearing at said meeting and its decision rendered after such hearing shall be final and conclusive.

SECTION G. Organization Bylaws - The County Bylaws Committee is authorized and required to examine all Democratic Organization Rules and all amendments thereto. No such rules or amendments shall be effective until approved by the County Bylaws Committee. All rules and/or amendments or notification of no changes must be submitted within thirty days after the organization's reorganization meeting. Each member of the County Committee, including ex officio members, shall be entitled to one vote on any proposed changes to these Bylaws; the following shall not have a vote: BCDC Staff, the Parliamentarian, and the Solicitor. When the County Bylaws are amended, all subsidiary organization's Bylaws must come into compliance within 120 days (4 months) of adoption and approval by the County Bylaws Committee or be subject to decertification.

SECTION H. Municipal Organization Membership - Members in good standing of Municipal Organizations shall include Committeepeople of said organization, elected officials within the district, and any registered Democrat residing in said district that meets the specific eligibility requirements of the organization. The organization may use the following to define an eligible voting member:

1. Attendance at meetings
2. A member's public Voting Record
3. Vote of approval by a majority of the current membership

Organization dues may be requested but are not to be used as a requisite for membership or voting privileges.

Social membership is permissible but voting eligibility for purposes of reorganization and endorsement are defined in Rule VI, Section C and Rule V, Section E, respectively. Each member of the County Committee, including ex officio members, shall be entitled to one vote on all matters coming before the Municipal and Assembly district organization with which they are affiliated or as otherwise set forth in these Bylaws; the following shall not have a vote, excluding the following individuals: BCDC Staff, the Parliamentarian, and the Solicitor.

RULE VII STANDING COMMITTEES

SECTION A. Description of Standing Committees - The following Standing Committees of the Bucks County Democratic Committee Executive Board (BCDCEB) are hereby established, whose duties shall be provided by the BCDCEB and whose Chairpersons and/or members shall be appointed by the County Chairperson and approved by the BCDCEB at the next Executive Board meeting post-appointment.

1. Finance Committee - Whose responsibility it is to raise funds for the general operation of the Committee.
2. Auditing Committee - Once a year and/or at the call of the Executive Board, an Auditing Committee consisting of at least three (3) members shall be appointed by the County Chairperson to audit the books and records of the Treasurer. Such Auditing Committee shall make a full and complete report of each audit to the Executive Board, which shall thereupon either accept such report, or reject it and appoint another committee to re-audit the books and records aforesaid.
3. Bylaws Committee - Whose purpose it is to review all Bylaws of subsidiary organizations to ensure their compliance with the County, State and National Bylaws. The Committee shall meet at least once a year in addition to when there are Bylaws to review.
4. Arbitration Board -The County Arbitration Board shall consist of five (5) members. Vacancies occurring on the Arbitration Board shall be filled in the same manner as the original election.

The Arbitration Board shall organize by electing one person as Chairperson, one Vice Chairperson, and one Secretary and may appoint temporary members to assist with case overloads as needed subject to the approval of the Chairperson of the Bucks County Democratic Committee.

Any member of the Democratic Party may file a complaint with the board alleging a violation of the Bylaws before the Board. The Board shall have censorship power only in matters concerning Committeemembers. In all other cases, its role shall be solely one of arbitration. All parties involved will be requested to appear before the Board in cases involving possible censorship. Refusal of the accused to appear will warrant censorship automatically. Refusal of the complainant to appear will warrant dismissal of the charges. A record of all proceedings shall be kept

All matters that come before the Arbitration Board, as defined under this section, shall be finalized within four (4) months of the filing of the complaint and a final report was presented to the Executive Board. The Arbitration Board may make a written request of the County Executive Board for an extension based on extenuating circumstances.

The Board shall have the responsibility of deciding on the proper sanction within the limits of the Bylaws of the Democratic State Committee and the Democratic Party of Bucks County. The Board shall not apply censorship of any type upon any individual for more than two (2) years.

In cases of personal involvement of an Arbitration Board member, the County Chairperson may appoint a temporary replacement to hear the case.

5. Credentials Committee - There shall be a standing Credentials Committee consisting of three (3) members elected by the Executive Board at the first meeting following the County reorganization meeting. The duties of the Credentials Committee are outlined in Rule II, Section K.
6. Screening Committee – There shall be a standing Screening Committee consisting of three (3) members and the chair and members of the screening committee shall be appointed by the County Chairperson. There shall be candidate screening for the following races: Congressional, State Legislative, Countywide Races. Incumbents need not be screened. The committee shall set the schedule for Screening Meeting(s) by the Screening Committee, as defined in Rule V, Sections A, B, and C. Candidate screening must occur prior to the endorsement meeting.
7. Reorganization Committee – There shall be a standing Reorganization Committee consisting of three (3) members and the chair of the reorganization committee shall be appointed by the County Chairperson. The Reorganization Committee shall be authorized and empowered to prepare for and execute the party reorganization meeting for the County Committee. These duties would include calling for candidates for BCDC Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Comptroller positions subject to election, a timeline for providing information to the body on such candidates, and having up to date job descriptions.

SECTION B. Special Committees -The Chairperson shall have the authority to create and dissolve such special committees as they deem necessary and shall have the authority to appoint Chairpersons and/or members of said committees with the approval of the Executive Board.

RULE VIII
AMENDMENT OF RULES

SECTION A. County Committee Requirements - The rules may be amended at any meeting of the County Committee by the affirmative vote of 2/3 of the members attending a meeting where a quorum is present provided written notice of such proposed amendments was mailed or emailed (according to the recipient's preference) to all the members at least ten (10) days before the meeting at which action is to be taken.

SECTION B. Executive Board Requirements - All proposed amendments must be presented to the Executive Board prior to being presented to the County Committee.

As amended February 1, 1979;

March 1, 1979;
March 5, 1983;
March 14, 1987;
March 14, 1990;
June 6, 1990;
March 23, 1991;
February 15, 1992;
February 26, 2005;
March 4, 2006;
January 24, 2007;
June 13, 2015;
February 8, 2020;
February 27, 2021;
July 26, 2022;
March 9, 2023;

By action for the Bucks County Democratic Committee. Certified by



Steve Santarsiero
County Chairperson



Dawn Burke
Solicitor